

Pallid and mad lie swift upsprang,
and he tore tip a tree by its lusty
roots, and down the declivity,
dashing with rapid leaps, panting
and wild, he struck the ravisher on.
the temple with the mighty pine.

That fantastical genius Beckford
was enchanted with it all, and
wished 'the truly wondrous tale
had been extended to twenty
volumes'; this in spite of some
distress at the discovery that
Disraeli and company were
smoking away like vulgar
factories.' Disraeli wrote* to his
sister immediately after
publication: —

Of *Alroy* I hear golden opinions,
and I doubt not of its success. . . .
I hear no complaints of its style,
except from the critics. The common
readers seem to like the poetry and
the excitement. Mrs. Jameson told
Otley that 'reading it was like
riding an Arab.' Slade, the traveller,
said 'it was the most thoroughly
Oriental book he had ever read.'³

In. spite, however, of these
encouraging pronouncements, the
author's hopes were hardly
realised: the subject was too
remote and, his own opinion
notwithstanding, the style
presented too easy a mark for
ridicule²; so that the book, if not
a failure, had at best only a
moderate success.

With *Alroy* was published a
short story entitled *The JZise of
Ialcander*, which Disraeli appears to
have written while he was on a
visit to Bath with Bulwer.
Iskander is the Scanderbeg of
Gibbon, the Albanian prince who
won his independence in the days
of Maliommed the Conqueror; and
the piece was designed to provide
a contrast to *Alroy* by setting
forth 'the history of a Christian
hero placed in a somewhat similar
position but

¹ March 26, 1833 ; *Letters*, p. 81.

² There was an amusing parody by
Maginn, Disraeli's old acquaintance
of *Representative clays*: — 'O reader dear
I do pray look here, and you

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try in *The Young Duke*,
and Disraeli never wholly lost the habit.
Even in his last novel we find
it in the middle of a passage of ordinary
prose suddenly breaking into
verse: 'And now and then was heard a
silver laugh, and now and then
-was breathed a gentle sigh' (*Endymion*,
Ch. II.).